WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Shortage of trainer aircraft

*106. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whethere it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of aircraft for imparting training to pilots;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is shortage of professional pilot instructors; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to remove these shortages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following steps have been taken to improve the situation:—

(i) Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academy has been established at Fursatganj in Uttar Pradesh for training of Commercial Pilots.

(ii) Flying Clubs have embarked upon a plan of training Pilot Instructors.

New Train Service between Hyderabad and Cochin

*107. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce a new train service between Hyderabad and Cochin;

(b) if so, by when it is expected to be introduced;

(c) whether Government propose to extend it to Cape Comorin (Kanya Kumari) to facilitate tourist flow; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what other steps Government propose to take to connect Hyderabad directly with Cape Comorin (Kanya Kumari) in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) It is proposed to introduce a new weekly train between Hyderabad and Cochin from April, 1987.

(c) and (d) Due to inadequate line capacity on the single line section between Ernakulam and Trivandrum, extension beyond Cochin is not feasible at present. Tourists can, however, travel to Kanyakumari by the existing services.

Derailment of Tirupati-Hyderabad Rayalseema Express

*108. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Statesman dated 11th February, 1987 wherein it has been stated that five coaches and the engine of the Tirupati-Hyderabad Rayalseema Express derailed between Nagarpalli and Lingambpalli on 10th February, 1987;

(b) if so, what is the cause of this accident;

(c) the estimated loss of life and property as a result thereof; and

(d) whether any inquiry has since been conducted and if so, the action taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prima-facie cause is rail fracture.

(c) There was no loss of life. The cost of damage to railway property has been estimated at about Rs. 43 lakhs.

(d) Enquiry by a Committee of Senior Officers is in progress and action will be taken on receipt of their report.

Inquiry into Affairs of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

*109. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SURAJ PARSAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news items that appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 18th September, 1986 under the caption "An Open letter to Shri Rajiv Gandhi", wherein excerpts of a letter written by Shri H.L. Sonar, former General Secretary of the All India Kendriya Vidalaya Teachers' Association have been given; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the alleged financial and administrative irregularities in Kendriya Vidalaya Sangathan; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. In this open letter apart from criticism of various officials, complaint has been voiced about quality of management in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, promotional avenues for teachers and conditions of pay for them, among other things.

(b) and (c) The Government have looked into the allegations made in the open letter. The Government does not feel that any other enquiry is called for.

Modernisation of Ports

*110. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to undertake modernisation programme of the ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the programme would result in the retrenchment of a large number of port workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir.

Statement

(a) and (b) In the outlay of Rs. 955 crores for the 7th Plan for Major Ports Rs. 778 crores are intended for modernisation of Ports including additions to capacity. The schemes costing Rs. 5 crores or more for modernisation, replacement of old equipments and additions to capacity are given port-wise in the enclosed Annexure.